

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 1, line 16 as follows:

Although the tags are useful for storing camera and image information, the tags in the image files produced by a particular camera are fixed at the time of manufacture, and a user cannot change the use of those tags on the camera. As the proliferation of digital cameras continues, however, more uses for digital cameras are being discovered, requiring that digital cameras become more flexible.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 2, line 1 as follows:

One approach to making digital cameras more flexible has been to design digital cameras that ~~they~~ are controlled by software, rather than hardware, so that the digital camera may be continually updated. A side benefit to this approach is that developers may write software applications that run on these cameras to allow the cameras to perform new functions, including providing new uses for the tags. For example, a software application may be written that accepts positioning data from a GPS unit attached to the camera and stores the GPS data in the tags of captured images.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 2, line 21 as follows:

The present invention provides a method and system for customizing tags in digital images captured with an image capture device ~~is disclosed~~. The method and system include storing a key ID and a metadata definition of one or more custom tags on a server on a network. Thereafter a plurality of image files are received over the network, wherein each of the image files includes image data, the key ID, and the custom tags containing data. The method and system further include automatically recognizing the image files by the key ID and using the

stored definition to extract the data from the custom tags to make the data available to a user along with the image data.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 6, line 1 as follows:

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a diagram of one embodiment for an image file 50. Image file 50 preferably includes a header 52, image data 54, a scrennail 56, a thumbnail 58, image tags 60, and an audio tag 62. Header 52 preferably includes information that identifies and describes the various contents of image file 50. Image data 54 contains actual captured image data, the resolution of which depends on the settings of the camera ~~110~~ 14. Image data 54 is typically stored in JPEG format, but may exist in whichever format is appropriate for the current location of image file 50 within the image processing chain of the camera ~~110~~ 14. Scrennail 56 and thumbnail 58 are each different versions of image data 54 that have varying degrees of reduced resolution for a number of special viewing applications. Image tags 60 store various types of data that correspond and relate to particular captured image data 54. Audio tag 62 stores any sound that has been recorded for the image.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6 as follows:

Referring again to FIG. 1, however, the camera 14 has the ability to run ~~software~~ applications 22a and scripts 22b that may be programmed to alter the function of the user tags 66, creating custom tags 68. The term software applications 22 may encompass ~~application~~ ~~programs~~ applications 22a and scripts 22b. ~~Application programs~~ Applications 22a are stored in the camera 14 as executable files and are typically written by software developers 28. Scripts 22b are text files that are interpreted by the camera 14 and may be written by either the user 24 or developer 28. When the software applications 22 (e.g., applications 22a and scripts 22b) are run

on the camera 14, the software applications 22 (referred to herein as camera applications 22 or applications 22) may prompt the user 24 to enter data on the camera 14, or may receive data from an external device or a file on the internal flash disk, and insert the data into the image tags 60 during image capture.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 13 as follows:

By allowing multiple developers 28 to store metadata definitions 32 defining custom tags 68 for different camera applications 22 on the gateway server 18, such that images uploaded to the gateway server 18 are automatically recognized by the key IDs 30, the metadata Internet platform 10 eliminates the need for developers 28 to write their own web applications to recognize the custom tags 68. In addition, the key IDs 30 give the same gateway server 18 the ability to recognize and extract custom data from a plurality of different cameras 14 and camera applications 22.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5 as follows:

Referring to ~~both~~ FIG 1, FIG. 2, and FIGS. 4a and 4b, the process begins by providing the gateway server 18 with the ability to accept metadata definitions 32 from multiple developers 28 in step 200. Each developer may then design a camera application 22 and determine what type of custom tags 68 the application 22 will require in the image files 50 in step 202.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 14 as follows:

Images may be captured under the direction of the application, or the application may be run after the images are captured ~~in step 212~~. In either case the data are associated with the appropriate image, either with or without the help of the user. The tags data is stored in each

image file before being transferred to the server. In an alternative embodiment, the tags are not stored in the image files but are transferred to the photo-service site 16 separately from the images. In this embodiment, the photo-service site 16 is responsible for maintaining the relationship between the tags and the images.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 22 as follows:

The image files 50 are uploaded from the camera to the server in step 212. The gateway server 18 receives image files 50 and extracts the image data and the image tags and stores them in the respective databases 20 and 34 in step 214. The metadata tags may be extracted and placed in the database 34 when the images are received or when images are viewed (real-time metadata extraction). In a preferred embodiment, the image data 54 and the image tags 60 are indexed by a user ID that is uploaded along with the image files 50.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 21 as follows:

Once Harry has his inventory script working, he offers it for free on his website. Camera owner can now download the script to create a home or business photo inventory using their digital cameras 14. When images created with the script are uploaded to ~~thegateway~~ the gateway server 18 with the assigned key ID in utag, ~~thegateway~~ the gateway server 18 retrieves the corresponding metadata definition and uses it to automatically extract the data in the specified tags and display them along with the image.